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Message Text

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17
ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SP-03

CIEP-02 LAB-06 OMB-01 IGA-02 SS-20 L-03 PA-04 USIA-15

DODE-00 GSA-02 ABF-01 /137 R

DRAFTED BY EA/TB:CLSTERMER:AVW
APPROVED BY EA:RLSNEIDER
RA/TB JDEXTER
EA/EP:ABEBER
EB/OFP/CAVANAUGH
AID/ASIA:SVLITTLEFIEL
EA:LEDMOND
---------- 109694
R 1,2349Z JUL 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EGEN, BM
SUBJECT: GUB REQUESTS FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

REFS: (A) RANGOON 1807 (B) RANGOON 1791

1. IN A CALL ON ACTING ASST SECRETARY SNEIDER JULY 11, BURMESE AMBASSADOR U LWIN ASKED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING PL 480 COMMODITIES ALONG SAME LINES REPORTED REF A. HE ALSO INQUIRED AT REQUEST OF GUB ABOUT PROSPECTS OF OBTAINING A COMMODITY LOAN OF UNSTATED AMOUNT TO PURCHASE GOODS MENTIONED IN U CHIT MOUNG'S JUNE 26 ANNOUNCEMENTON ECONOMIC REFORMS (REF B). U LWIN WAS TOLD THAT THE REQUESTS WOULD BE STUDIED CAREFULLY, BUT THAT HE SHOU BE AWARE THAT PL 480 TITLE I COMMODITY AND BUDGETARY RESOURCES
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ARE LIMITED, THAT FY 75 COMMITMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE ALREADY AND THAT MANY DIFFICULTIES LIE AHEAD IN STARTING UP A NEW PROGRAM. SNEIDER ALSO CALLED LWIN'S ATTENTION TO FACT THAT NEW PROGRAMS REQUESTED WOULD IMPLY SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN U.S./BURMA RELATIONS.

2. WHILE THESE REQUESTS APPEAR TO STEM PRIMARILY FROM INCREASINGLY SERIOUS ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, THEY CARRY FIRM IMPLICATIONS OF A BASIC SHIFT IN LONG-STANDING GUB POLICY OF NOT SEEKING ASSISTANCE FROM U. S.

3. TO ASSIST DEPARTMENT IN FORMULATING POSITION ON THESE REQUESTS, WE NEED YOUR EVALUATION OF THE POLICY IMPLICATIONS INVOLVED IN ANY DECISION REACHED REGARDING OUR RELATIONS WITH BURMA. IN THIS CONNECTION WE WOULD LIKE YOUR JUDGMENT WHETHER GUB SEES THESE APPROACHES AS PART OF MAJOR SHIFT, IMPLICIT OR EXPLICIT, IN BURMESE POLICY TOWARD U.S. IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE YOUR VIEWS ON THE ACTUAL ECONOMIC AND HUMANITARIAN NEED FOR THE COMMODITIES REQUESTED; WHETHER BURMA HAS SOUGHT ASSISTANCE ELSEWHERE DURING THIS CRITICAL PERIOD; WHETHER FOREIGN HELP WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC REFORMS; AND WHETHER THE COMMODITY AND LOAN REQUESTS CAN BE ENVISAGED AS ONE-TIME EMERGENCY MEASURES OR THE BEGINNING OF LONGER TERM REQUIREMENTS.

4. IF THIS SUBJECT SHOULD AGAIN BE RAISED WITH YOU BY GUB, YOU SHOULD RESPOND ALONG LINES OF PARA 1, CAREFULLY AVOIDING ANY COMMENTS THAT WOULD ENCOURAGE BURMESE EXPECTATIONS. BEFORE EXAMINING SERIOUSLY THE FEASIBILITY OF MEETING BURMESE REQUESTS WE WANT TO HAVE BEST POSSIBLE UNDERSTANDING OF POLICY IMPLICATIONS OF UNDERTAKING AID PROGRAM, PER SE, IN BURMA. WE SHALL WANT YOUR CONSIDERED JUDGMENT ON THIS BASIC ISSUE. FURTHERMORE, EVEN IF WE SHOULD DETERMINE THAT THIS ASSISTANCE IS JUSTIFIED IN PRINCIPLE, WE CANNOT AT THIS STAGE BE CERTAIN THAT RESOURCES WOULD BE AVAILABLE. KISSINGER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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